MISCEL-LANEOUS

(vii) Stores Purchase Committee.

886. The total value of stores the purchase of which was arranged by the Stores Purchase Committee on behalf of the several Departments of Government both from firms in India and abroad amounted to Rs. 1,22,45,741 (Rs. 3,30,51,159). The value of orders placed with firms in India was Rs. 86,31,943 (Rs. 1,67,02,212) and the value of orders placed with foreign countries was Rs. 36,13,798 (Rs. 1,63,48,947) during the year.

887. Both the local and foreign purchases made during the year were much less than the purchases, made in the previous year. This was due to the restrictions imposed on the import of foreign materials, and the high prices prevailing all over the countries, including India.

888. Messrs. Rendel Palmer and Tritton, Ltd., London, were the Consulting and Inspecting Engineers in London, during the year. Since the Mysore Railway has been integrated with the Government of India Railway, the question of discontinuing the services of this Firm has been taken up. The inspecting staff of the Industries and Commerce Department inspected the articles of local manufacture such as, furniture, etc., required by the Government departments of the State.

889. Twenty firms were newly registered and put on the approved lists of the Stores Purchase Committee during the year.

890. The total expenditure on the Stores Purchase Committee, including the contribution of Rs. 4,000 paid towards the Trade Agents's Office in London, the charges paid to Messrs. Rendel, Palmer and Tritton and salaries, establishment of the office, amounted to Rs. 49,720 which works out to 0·40 per cent as against 0·17 per cent during the previous year.

891. A sum of Rs. 1,53,008 has been recovered from the Customs authorities, Madras, towards the refund of excess customs duty, etc., during the year.

(viii) Recruitment to Public Services.

892. The number and percentage of appointments held by Brahmins and Backward Communities in the Gazetted